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REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Action, claims 1-20 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-20 of US Patent No. 7,355,741.

In view of the rejection, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to be patentably distinct from the reference claim. New claims 21-27 have been filed to capture proper scope of the invention. The application should be in condition for allowance for the reasons explained below.

As recited in amended claim 1, an image forming apparatus of the invention comprises a data collecting section to reduce data of a plurality of pages and create collected data collected in one single medium; a specific information creating section to create specific information applied to the one single medium; and a data editing section to overlap the specific information with the collected data so that one single image of the specific information is printed over at least two of the pages. Further, the specific information excludes line information.

In particular, the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 1 includes the specific information creating section for creating the specific information excluding the line information. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without any line.

According to claim 1 of US Patent No. 7,355,741, a data processing apparatus for generating image data for printing a plurality of pages of a document on a single sheet of a printing medium, comprises: an image data generator for condensing image

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data of each page among the plurality of pages by a prescribed reduction ratio; a sequence information overlayer for overlaying layout sequence information indicating the layout sequence of the pages on the condensed image data of the pages, the layout sequence information including page borders of different densities, the densities indicating the layout sequence of the pages; and an output device for combining the condensed image data of the pages and the overlaid layout sequence information into image data for the single sheet such that the condensed image data of the pages appears in prescribed positions on the single sheet, and outputting the image data.

As recited in claim 1 of US Patent No. 7,355,741, the data processing apparatus includes the sequence information overlayer for overlaying the layout sequence information indicating the layout sequence of the pages.

According to FIG. 17 in US Patent No. 7,355,741, the setting processor 49 also displays a sequence line 104 overlaid on the print sample image 101. The sequence line 104 is a zigzag line starting at the center of the first page in the first row and extending horizontally rightward to the center of the last page in the first row, diagonally left and down to the center of the first page in the last row, then horizontally rightward to the center of the last page in the last row. Therefore, the layout sequence of the pages recited in claim 1 is defined as the sequence line 104 shown in FIG. 17.

In the image forming apparatus of the invention recited in claim 1, the specific information creating section creates the specific information excluding the line information. Accordingly, even when a plurality of the pages is printed on one sheet, it is

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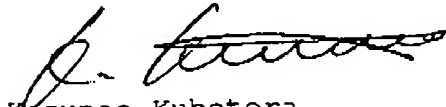
possible to print one single image of the specific information over the pages without any line. Therefore, claim 1 is patentably distinct from the reference claim.

In the invention recited in amended claim 12, an image forming apparatus comprises a specific information creating section for creating specific information excluding line information. Accordingly, as explained above for amended claim 1, claim 12 is patentably distinct from the reference claim.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

The applicant has filed IDS. The credit card payment form in the amount of \$712 (excess claim fee \$532, IDS \$180) has been attached herewith.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on February 19, 2010.

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